

Peer Review Plan

Title of Review:	<u>Review Child Care Study Final Report</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Influential Scientific Information
Agency:	<u>FNS</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Highly Influential Scientific Assessment
Agency Contact:	<u>Rich Lucas</u>	
Subject of Review:	<u>Study of Nutrition and Wellness Quality in Child Care Settings (Sec. 223 of PL 111-296)</u>	
Purpose of Review:	<u>Subject the information to formal, independent, external peer review to ensure its objectivity.</u>	
Type of Review:	<input type="checkbox"/> Panel Review <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Individual Reviewers	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Alternative Process (Briefly Explain): <u></u>	
Timing of Review (Est.):	Start: <u>6/2014</u>	End: <u>9/2014</u> Completed: <u></u>
Number of Reviewers:	<input type="checkbox"/> 3 or fewer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4 to 10 <input type="checkbox"/> More than 10	
Primary Disciplines/Types of Expertise Needed for Review:	<u>There are four areas of expertise needed: (1) research methodology and statistical analysis; (2) knowledge; of the operation of the Child and Adult Care Food Program and the Head Start program, (3) nutritional requirements of pre-school children and (4) evaluation of wellness activities.</u>	
Reviewers selected by:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agency <input type="checkbox"/> Designated Outside Organization Organization's Name: <u></u>	
Opportunities for Public Comment?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
	If yes, briefly state how and when these opportunities will be provided: How: <u></u> When: <u></u>	
Peer Reviewers Provided with Public Comments?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
Public Nominations Requested for Review Panel?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
Other:	<u>See next page.</u>	

The study required by Section 223 of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 is a nationally representative study of child care centers and family or group day care homes that includes an assessment of (1) the nutritional quality of all foods provided to children in child care settings as compared to the recommendations in most recent Dietary Guidelines for Americans, (2) the quantity and type of opportunities for physical activity provided to children in child care settings; (3) the quantity of time spent by children in child care settings in sedentary activities; and (4) an assessment of barriers and facilitators to nutritional and wellness quality. FNS plans to have separate peer reviews of four components of the final report. Each component will have two independent peer reviewers, for a total of 8. The components and charges to the reviewers are as follows:

1. **Research questions, study design and analysis methods.** Reviewers will be requested to determine if (i) the data collection as implemented was appropriate, (ii) whether the analyses as carried out reflect the original plans and (iii) whether the analyses are appropriate given the actual implementation of sampling and data collection.
2. **Nutrition standards and their application.** Reviewers will be requested to assess the completeness and accuracy of the report's evaluation of the nutritional quality of all foods provided to children in child care settings as compared to the recommendations in the most recent Dietary Guidelines for Americans.
3. **Wellness and physical activity.** Reviewers will be requested to assess the completeness and accuracy of the report's evaluation of the quantity and type of opportunities for physical activity provided to children in child care settings and the report's assessment of the quantity of time spent by children in child care settings in sedentary activities
4. **Child care operations and environment, factors affecting participation and nonparticipation in the Child Care Food Program, and characteristics of participants and nonparticipants in different child care settings.** The final report will be charged with addressing the barriers and facilitators to providing foods that meet Dietary Guidelines, appropriate opportunities for physical activity, and participation in the Child and Adult Care Food Program. Reviewers will be charged with evaluating the clarity of hypotheses, the robustness of the methods employed on this component, the appropriateness of the methods for the hypotheses being tested, the extent to which the conclusions follow from the analysis, and the strengths and limitations of the overall component. The peer reviewers will be requested, as appropriate, to suggest ways to clarify assumptions, findings, and conclusions; identify oversights, omissions, and inconsistencies; and, if needed, encourage authors to more fully acknowledge limitations and uncertainties.

All 8 peer reviewers will be informed that the Agency does not have funds to make changes that require additional data collection, reconsideration of the research design, or significant modifications to data collection and analysis methods. The reviewers will be informed that the Agency, while it will welcome recommendations that may improve the design of future studies of nutrition and wellness quality in child care, requires an evaluation of the current product that is cognizant of the funding constraints.

Each reviewer will be instructed to supply the results of their review in written form. Because the study results are considered influential scientific information, reviewers will be informed that the Agency is required to make available to the public the written charge to the peer reviewers, the peer reviewers' names, the peer reviewers' report(s), and the agency's response to the peer reviewers' report(s).